

●Aladdin ... a magic blend of MC Hammer, Tom Cruise and (right) comic genius Robin Williams.

ALADDIN has taken more than \$200 million at the American box-office, but one of the reasons for its record-breaking success, Robin Williams, collected one of the smallest pay-packets of his movie career.

Williams has attracted widespread acclaim as the voice

insists Williams never expected big money for his efforts.

"Robin took the role because he has little kids and he wanted to do something of lasting value for them," Clements says.

"With a role like his radio DJ in Good Morning Vietnam, there was room for improvisation. But he was promised he could let himself loose with the Genie character. I

A COMIC

**Robin Williams
cops all the
plaudits – but little
of the profits
– for the \$200
million-grossing
movie Aladdin**

of the Genie in the animated feature film.

But the actor, whose work has carried such films as Dead Poets Society, Good Morning Vietnam and Cadillac Man, is believed to have been paid less than \$100,000, accepting the role for a minimum wage and no percentage of profits.

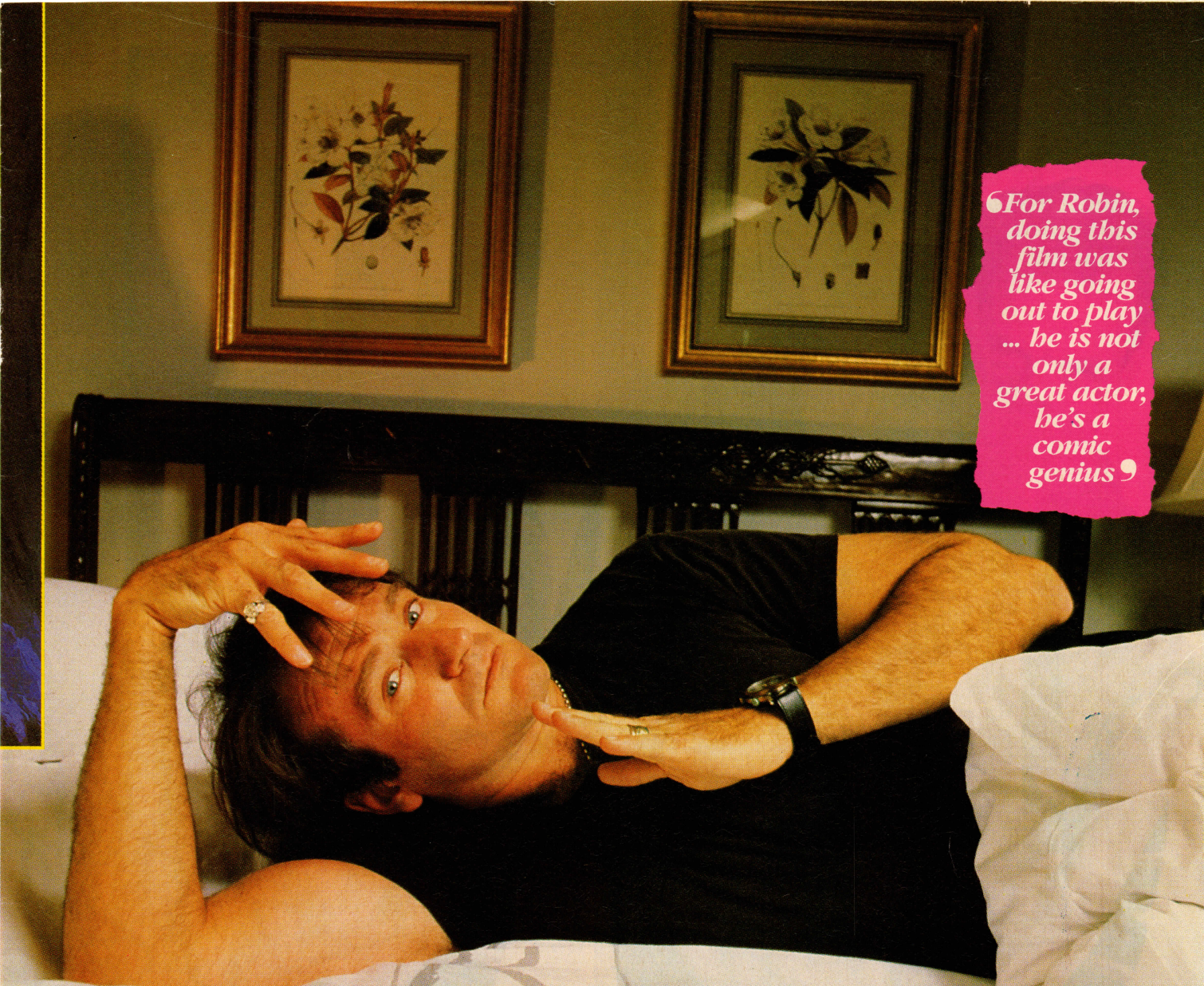
The producer, Disney, has a reputation for paying smaller salaries than other movie studios. Director-producer of the film, Ron Clements,

think that appealed to him, too.

"For Robin, doing this film was like going out to play. It was just a lot of fun and it proved once again that he is not only a great actor, he's a comic genius."

While Williams was Clements' first choice for the role, Disney wanted a list of alternative actors before official casting began. That list included John Candy, Steve Martin, Eddie Murphy, Martin Short and John Goodman.

But Clements got his way with Williams, who applied unfailing energy to his role as the Genie.



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GENIE-US!

“We did his voice recording in four-hour segments,” Clements says. He was exhausted afterwards – wet with perspiration.”

Scott Weinger, who plays Candace Cameron’s boyfriend, Steve, in *Full House*, is the voice of Aladdin. The animators mixed characteristics of real-life stars when drawing the title character.

“We based Aladdin’s balloon-style harem pants on those of the rap singer MC Hammer,” Clements says. “Initially, the character was based on Michael J. Fox – younger and shorter, with a

brash personality. But then we had to ask what Princess Jasmine would find appealing about him.”

That’s where Tom Cruise came in, and Aladdin became a bit older, with swagger and charm.

The story is set in the mythical Arabian kingdom, Agrabah. Aladdin, a street-wise youth, dreams of escaping his dull life by marrying Princess Jasmine. His hopes are thwarted when he’s recruited by the Sultan’s scheming vizier, Jafar, to steal a magic lamp. Aladdin finds the lamp and is granted three wishes – but he

also acquires a foe in Jafar.

The film, nominated for five Academy Awards, is the highest-earning animated feature ever and is only the 14th motion picture to take more than \$200 million at the U.S. box office. There is, however, a tragic element to the film. Howard Ashman, who won an Academy Award for his song-writing on *The Little Mermaid*, died of AIDS soon after working on Aladdin.

Aladdin opens in Australia on June 3.

Darren Devlyn

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